



Washington, D. C. 20505

7 March 1980

Dear Bill,

As you can see from the date on this letter compared to the date of your note to me of last September, I don't get a lot of opportunity to dabble in military tactics any more. Sorry.

I did find your paper stimulating--as usual. I certainly agree with your thesis that the Soviets have a different perception of the submarine's role and method of employment than do we. In particular, I found your explanation for their rationale for emphasizing speed in their submarines very interesting. At the same time, with the bulk of their submarine force still being diesel electric, the use of speed can't be their primary tactic. It may be in the nuclear force, of course.

I also found your explanation of their tight command and control from remote locations to be interesting. I wonder if this is primarily a technical issue or whether it is a general reluctance to allow any military commander to operate on too long a leash?

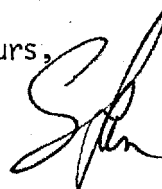
Overall, I rate the Soviet prospects for success in mutual support operations such as you have described as somewhat lower than you do. For instance, I still have a lot of faith in the ability of our submarines to avoid Soviet airborne ship and submarine sensors. Hence, I wonder if some of the tactics you postulate in defense against our submarines are realistic.

You know better than I the problems of operating submarines in mutual support and maintaining communication. It seems to me the degree of coordination you postulate would be difficult to achieve and might result in more susceptibility to attack than you have indicated.

Despite all this, I certainly agree that we should be alert to interpret Soviet combined force ASW activities, and not simply assume that they are modeling themselves on us.

As always, it's good to hear from you and to be stimulated by your ideas. All the best.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stansfield Turner', written in a cursive style.

STANSFIELD TURNER

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